

Buying a carbon monoxide detector is a good idea, but a detector does not protect you from carbon monoxide poisoning.

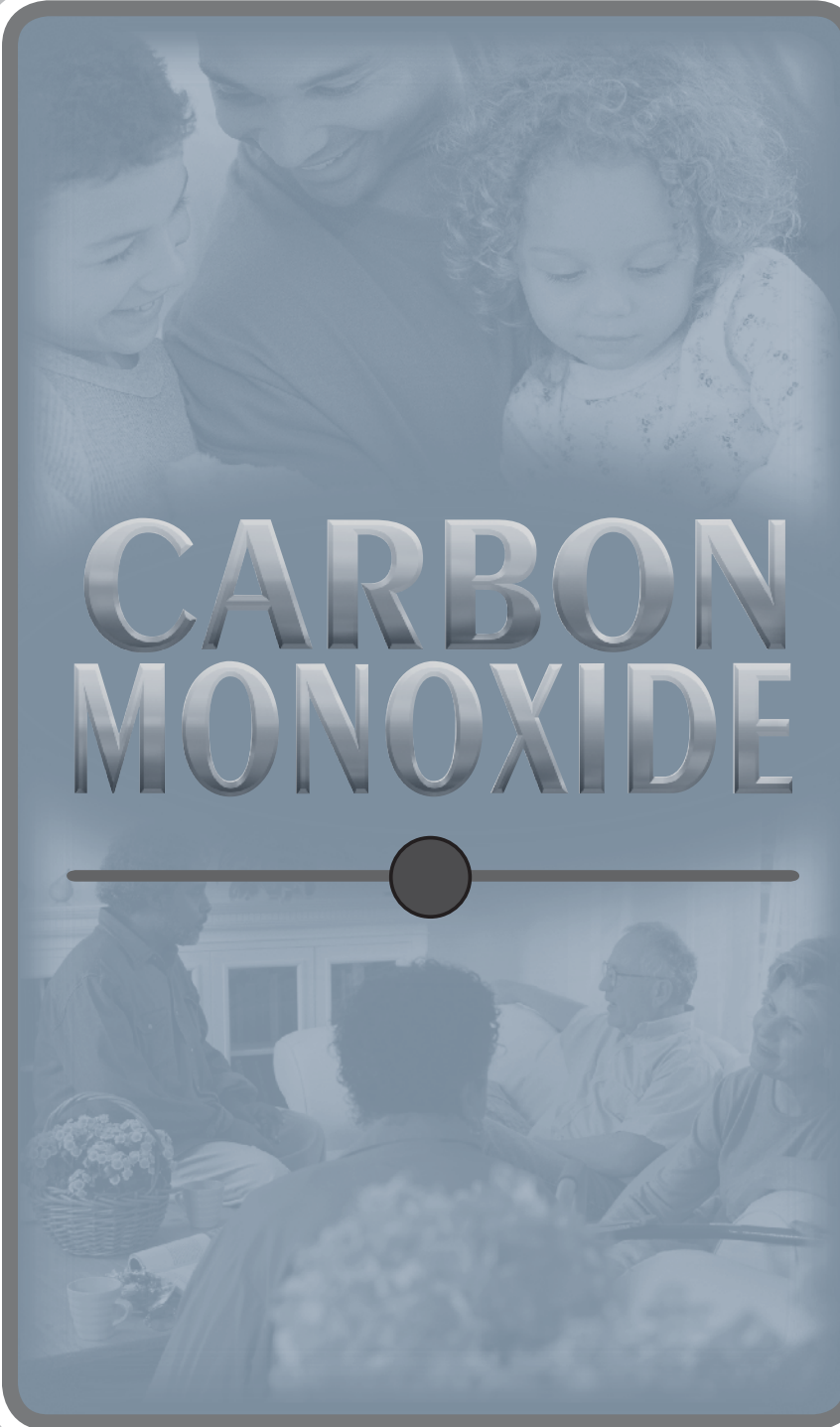
If the CO detector alarm goes off:

Treat the alarm as a real emergency each time.

- Check to see if any member of the household is experiencing symptoms of poisoning.
- If they are, get them out of the house immediately and seek medical attention. Tell the doctor that you suspect CO poisoning.
- If no one is feeling symptoms, ventilate the home with fresh air, turn off all potential sources of CO -- your oil or gas furnace, gas water heater, gas range and oven, gas dryer, gas or kerosene space heater and any vehicle or small engine.
- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly and that there is nothing blocking the fumes from being vented out of the house.



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CARBON MONOXIDE

Say
No
to CO!

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly substance. You cannot see, smell or taste carbon monoxide. Hundreds of people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is found in your home, at work, in your garage, in your car and on your boat. Knowing the facts about carbon monoxide can lower the number of deadly accidents and save lives.

How can carbon monoxide hurt me?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas. It can cause brain damage, suffocation or death. When you breathe carbon monoxide, good oxygen leaves your bloodstream and carbon monoxide takes its place. High levels of carbon monoxide in your blood can damage your heart, brain and other bodily systems.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide comes from the burning of fuels (gasoline, kerosene, wood, gas, etc.). Appliances that are not working the right way or are not ventilated also produce carbon monoxide.

Some appliances that produce carbon monoxide are:

- Unvented kerosene heaters
- Leaking chimneys
- Gas water heaters
- Fireplaces
- Car or truck exhaust in a closed space, like a garage
- Gas space heaters
- Leaking furnaces
- Wood stoves
- Gas stoves
- Tobacco smoke

What are symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Severe headache
- Confusion about surroundings
- Sleepiness
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Fainting

Sometimes, people with these symptoms think they are getting the flu.

How can I lower my risk of carbon monoxide exposure?

- Choose appliances that are safe and that work the right way.
- Repair and take care of your appliances as needed.
- Have a qualified technician check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Make sure your home is well ventilated.
- Use your appliances the proper way. *Example:* never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.

Should I get a carbon monoxide detector?

You can get a carbon monoxide detector, but a detector does not protect you from carbon monoxide poisoning. The best way to be safe from carbon monoxide is to properly use and take care of your fuel-burning appliances.

You can buy carbon monoxide detectors in hardware stores. Make sure the detector you buy is UL-certified. Follow all instructions on how to install, use, and keep up your detector.